

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

see form PCTISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing

(day/month/year) see form PCTISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCTISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/008152

International filing date (day/month/year)
04.06.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
06.06.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B21B27/10

Applicant
NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCTISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCTISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCTISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.
PCT/JP2004/008152**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/008152

Box No. II Priority

1. The following document has not been furnished:
 - copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
 - translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.
2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-2
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-2
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-2
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. The following documents are referred to in this communication:

D1 : JP-A 5306397

2. Document **D1** is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art for the subject-matter of independent **claim 1**. This claim differs from **D1** in principal in that:

- (i) The lubricant has a viscosity of 800 mm²/s (=800cST) or less at 40 °C.
- (ii) A non combustible gas is used whose flow rate is 2000 cm³/min.
- (iii) The flow velocity of the gas is 1 m/s or higher.
- (iv) The amount of oil per square meter of roll surface is from 0.01cm³ to 20cm³.
- (v) The grain size of the granulated or atomized lubricant is 1 mm or smaller.

- 2.1 The subject-matter of **claims 1** is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT).
- 2.2 The features according to (i) to (v) solve, in a non foreseeable manner with respect to the available prior art **D1**, the problem of lowering frictional force to reduce roll abrasion and rolling energy and to enhance the surface quality. **Claim 1** is hence considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).
3. **Claim 2** is dependent on **claim 1** and as such also meets the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.
4. The subject- matter of **claims 1 to 2** is, without any doubts, industrially applicable (Article 33(4) PCT).